Statement

Contribution, Annual Growth Rate of GDP and percentage share of capital formation at constant (1993-94) prices-agriculture, forestry fishing sectors

Year	Contribution in GDP at constant (1993-94) prices (%)			Annual growth rate of GDP in agricultrure, fishing sector, at constant (1993-94) prices	Capital formation in agriculture, forestry and as percentage of GDP, at constant (1993-94) market prices.
	Agriculture, forestry & fishing	Mining, manufacturing, electricity and construction	Services		
1993-94	31.0	26.3	42.8		1.8
1994-95	30.3	27.0	42.7	5.0	1.8
1995-96	28.0	28.1	43.9	-0.9	1.8
1996-97	28.5	27.9	43.7	-0.9	1.7
1997-98	26.5	27.7	45.8	-2.4	1.6
1998-99	26.4	27.0	46.6	6.2	1.5
1999-2000	25.0	26.7	48.3	0.3	1.6
2000-01	23.9	27.2	48.9	-0.1	1.5
2001-02	24.0	26.7	49.3	6.3	1.5
2002-03	21.5	27.3	51.2	-7.0	1.5
2003-04	21.7	26.9	51.4	9.6	1.5
2004-05	20.5	27.1	52.4	1.1	NA

Decrease in growth rate of agriculture sector

†2586. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth rate of agricultural sector is on the decrease during the last decade;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are formulating any scheme to solve problems relating to the agriculture sector in view of promoting development of the same;

(d) whether Government are formulating any scheme to increase agricultural loans and to ensure easy availability of loans to farmers for farming; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The annual average growth rate of agriculture including the allied sectors of forestry, logging and fishing during the last ten years are given in Statement (*See* below).

The shortfall in achievement was due to weather-related shocks caused mostly by deficiency in rainfall. In the absence of adequate irrigation facilities with only about 40% of the area coverage under irrigation, the capacity of the agriculture sector to withstand such shocks gets eroded.

(c) The Government has taken number of initiatives which include multi-pronged strategy to address several issues in the agricultural sector. A series of policy initiatives has been taken in several vital areas like credit, irrigation facilities, crop diversification, marketing infrastructure, horticulture etc. to enhance production and productivity. The Government has underscored the importance of efforts aimed at turning the focus of commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks towards providing credit, especially production credit, to farm households.

The other areas for higher investment include micro irrigation technology comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation. National Horticulture Mission has been taken up with focus on backward and forward linkages and development/strengthening of agricultural marketing infrastructure, grading and standardization.

(d) and (e) A Comprehensive Credit Policy was announced by the Government on 18.6.2004 in order to double agriculture credit in next three years and to provide debt relief to the farmers affected by natural calamities. Several policy initiatives like broadening the scope of Kissan Credit Cards and revision in the norms of fixing scale of finance have been taken to

meet realistic need of the farmers. A package providing for restructuring debts of farmers in distress and in arrears has been put in to operation that provide rescheduling of outstanding loans.

Statement

Annual Growth Rate of GDP at constant (1993-94) prices—agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors.

Year	Annual growth rate of GDP in agriculture, forestry and fishing sector, at constant (1993-04) prices.
1993-94	
1994-95	5.0
1995-96	-0.9
1996-97	9.6
1997-98	-2.4
1998-99	6.2
1999-2000	0.3
2000-01	-0.1
2001-02	6.3
2002-03	-7.0
2003-04	9.6
2004-05	1.1

Use of plastic in agricultural activities

2587. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recommended the use of plastic in agricultural activities, if so, the justification for this recommendation; and

(b) whether any study has been done on the alternatives to plastic, if so, the details thereof showing the comparative cost-benefit ratio?